



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL  
SECRET

Dear Martin:

In view of the intrinsically weak Western position in Berlin, a hundred miles behind the Iron Curtain and dependent upon access corridors, it is difficult for us, as you know so well, to maintain our position here against strong Soviet pressure by measures related merely to Berlin. We have been giving consideration naturally to possible counter-measures in other spheres. We were planning to send a message on the subject yesterday or today, but hesitated to do so for several reasons. The Department has doubtless been considering the question of counter-measures in other spheres and we here are really not able to judge the practicality of our proposals. Hence it was thought best that I drop you this line for today's pouch in order to transmit the following suggestions on possible counter-measures:

- 1) Suspension of Geneva talks. Adenauer deftly referred to danger Soviet steps at moment Geneva talks in progress (Bonn's tel. 1080 to Dept.).
- 2) Suspend implementation cultural agreements, travel accords, etc., with Soviets; in short take all actions short of severance relations.
- 3) Institute economic embargo against GDR and-or Soviets. (Note Brentano reference Fed Rep-Sov trade agreement in teletel).
- 4) Bring Soviet action into UN forum as unilateral abrogation multilateral agreements and threat to peace.

Martin J. Hillenbrand, Esquire,  
Director, Office of German Affairs,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D.C.

United States Mission,  
Berlin, Germany,  
22 November 1958.

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Berlin  
U.S. Mission  
from  
Hillenbrand

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It would seem to us desirable to indicate to the Soviets through diplomatic channels either in Moscow or Washington counter-measures which the US may be obliged to consider if the Soviets persist in their course against our position in Berlin. Such diplomatic indications might, in our opinion, be taken more seriously by the Soviets than Western declaratory public statements.

As busy as we are here, I am sure that you are busier.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

*Howard*

Howard Trivers  
Chief  
Eastern Affairs

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